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Independence and Peace for the Vietnamese People!

MAY 19, 1967
PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S
77th BIRTHDAY

★

VIETNAM COURIER

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President Ho Chi Minh visits an A.A. unit.

For the defence of the independence of the Fatherland and for the fulfilment of our obligation to the peoples struggling against U.S. imperialism, our people and army, united as one man, will resolutely fight till complete victory whatever the sacrifice and hardship may be.

(President HO CHI MINH's
appeal of July 17, 1966)

"NOTHING is more precious than independence and freedom". A short, lapidary sentence almost banal at first sight. Yet it contains the secret of this extraordinary fact: the Vietnamese people's victorious resistance to the colossal American war machine. It follows the familiar style of the man who has pronounced it. A man who, at every historic moment, said words that were needed to mobilize energies, muster strength, call forth heroism and initiative. Simple words, devoid of flourish and rhetoric, which remain engraved in the hearts and minds of all, for they merely express what every one feels in his heart of hearts without being able to say it. Because HO CHI MINH embodies the indomitable will of an entire people never to resign themselves to slavery, because for sixty years, from his adolescence, he has devoted all his life to the cause of national independence, every one of his words faithfully expresses the Vietnamese people's aspirations.

When he was fifteen, he already served the patriotic resisters of that time; a few years later, he was active beside French democrats defending the national cause; in 1925 he rallied young people into a new-type revolutionary organization; in 1930, he founded

the Indo-Chinese Communist Party, in 1941 the Viet Minh Front, in 1944 the People's Army, in 1945 the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Now, at 77, he remains at the helm, always simple, alert, a determined patriot and a consistent revolutionary. In 1964, when American aggression against the South became extremely cruel, he simply said to our Northern compatriots: "Let us redouble our efforts". In 1966, when the American imperialists threatened to crush the whole country under showers of bombs, he merely reminded all of us that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." What he has sown for sixty years — the will for independence, the aspiration towards a future of justice, proletarian internationalism — has sprouted in all hearts and minds and become a material force, stronger than the technical and military power of the United States of America.

What he sows is also the image of a new man serving the collectivity; what he inculcates in the entire people is that irreproachable morality, that supreme virtue without which all revolution would be futile.

Uncle Ho, very affectionately, we say to you: "Happy birthday!"

NORTH VIETNAM

THE **1,900th**
U. S. PLANE WAS DOWNED
ON MAY 17, 1967

YANKEE GO HOME!

In the ricefields of a co-operative in Vinh Linh area

VINH LINH IN FACE OF U.S. BOMBINGS

THE American aggressors have been attacking with particular fury Vinh Linh, which is on the provisional military demarcation line.

In the years following the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, they sent there large numbers of spies and saboteurs, armed attacks were daily happenings. Since the start of their air war of destruction against the D.F.V., they have made it a special target, besides Con Co island which has been attacked day and night. There is not a small town or village of Vinh Linh on which they have not rained shells and bombs.

But in vain have the Yanks attacked Vinh Linh with planes, warships and artillery. Vinh Linh has defeated and will continue to foil all American aggression.

Besides the many commando' spies and saboteurs annihilated, Vinh Linh, up to May 10, 1967, had shot down 100 U.S. aircraft, sunk and damaged many war vessels.

A YOUNG WOMAN TEAM LEADER

I was greatly perplexed when the Yanks began in late February their

In the field of production, in spite of unfavourable weather conditions and the difficulties caused by enemy actions, agriculture has steadily progressed. In 1965, already, rice output reached 3.5 tons per hectare per year, as against 2.5 tons for the two-crop ricefields of Tonkin and 1.8 tons for the best fields of Cochinchina in the days of French domination. This year, the winter-spring rice cultivation campaign has shown plenty of promises: dry crops, cassava in particular, have been planted in good time; preparations for the autumn rice season are under way.

Young men no longer feel depressed when they are not admitted in the army. Here production and fighting are closely linked together. Production work is also combat.

artillery shelling over the demilitarized zone", says Lay, 19, a young team leader at the M. agricultural co-operative. "The fields were then in great need of weeding, and cassava had to be planted. What should we do so as to perform our jobs in time and at the same time limit human losses to the utmost?"

"The co-op members met and discussed the problem. They decided that the time had come to translate our determination to defeat Yankee aggression into concrete deeds, and to put into practice the watchword of the local Party branch: 'To cling to the land; not to leave one inch of land fallow; to intensify production'. Some rightly added: 'Not to work the land well and not to apply advanced methods of cultivation is to play into the hands of the enemy'."

Opinion varied however as to how to organize work. After animated discussions, it was decided to divide each team into smaller groups, each including workers of various categories and led by a member of the people's

militia. It was also decided that before work was begun at any place, a sufficient number of shelters should be dug so as to allow all to take shelter at the least warning. Experience has shown that such measure is absolutely necessary: it makes the workers feel secure, and as soon as the raid ends they can immediately resume work. The winter-spring rice cultivation campaign has been completed in time and cassava has received a greater quantity of manure than the previous years. And it should be noted that none of our people has been wounded. We have defeated the new U.S. escalation!"

A PIG BREEDER

ALL the 60 houses of T. village have been knocked down. The Yanks have dropped nearly 1,000 bombs on the place. But the people have remained there: they live underground.

Among them, Vieng is conspicuous by her small size. Each time a photograph is

taken of her self-defence group, she always tries to stand on some elevation of the ground. But she has plenty of courage!

Three times already, the pigsty under her care has been bombed. Each time, in defiance of the bombs, she immediately sought to round up the dispersed animals. Her routine work itself is not devoid of dangers: the fields where she takes for her beasts are very often bombed and strafed. Many times she came back splashed with mud from head to foot. But she kept smiling and joy shone in her eyes!

"This is my second batch of pigs since the artillery shelling began. Now the animals have got used to the explosions. They are no longer frightened."

A COWHERD

SUAT is happy thinking that he may soon be able to walk. The wound in his thigh is healing well.

It happened on April 10, 1967. Suat was busy doing his homework while keeping an eye on the cows of the co-operative, when an artillery barrage came, fired by the Yankee pirates from south of the demilitarized zone. He managed to take refuge in a shelter. During the lull however, he saw the cows making havoc of a rice-field. He hesitated for a while, for it was very dangerous to get out in such a moment. But as the cows continued to eat up young rice seedlings, he could no longer contain himself. He crawled out of his shelter, drove away the animals and was about to come back when a new salvo arrived and a splinter broke his thigh. He had only enough strength left to crawl into a shell crater. Suat was only 13, but he behaved like a man.

EXAMPLES of the kind cited above are plentiful. At the Congress of Heroes and Emulation Fighters held at the beginning of the year, Vinh Linh was represented by seven army and labour heroes. In fact one should say that all its 70,000 inhabitants are heroes, "victors over the Yanks."

Vinh Linh is part of Quang Tri province, the biggest part of which has been under American domination since 1951.

NEW U.S. ESCALATION, NEW PUNISHMENT:

152 U.S. PLANES DOWNED IN 30 DAYS INCLUDING THE 1,900th OVER NGHE AN ON MAY 17

THIS year the celebration of President Ho Chi Minh's birthday is marked by a month of emulation to punish the new escalation of the U.S. which strikes at populous and residential quarters inside and in the periphery of Hanoi and Haiphong.

Between April 19 and May 18, 1967, 152 U.S. planes were downed, 2 war vessels set afire and 2 others damaged. The 1,900th plane downed in these 30 days was also the 1,900th brought down over North Vietnam.

Except for the month of April 1965 when U.S. planes struck hard at Ham Kong bridge, in these 30 days North Vietnam set a record in the number of planes downed. Also in this period, the biggest number of American airmen and the highest in rank were captured including one colonel (Norman C. Gaddis) and two lieutenant colonels (James Lindberg Hughes and Gordon Albert Larson).

Another feature is the downing in this period of the 189th and 190th plane by Nghe An, native province of President Ho

Chi Minh. One of these two planes was downed by the Quang Trach militiamen with rifles.

Celebrating President Ho Chi Minh's 77th birthday, the army and people of the North have duly punished the U.S. new war escalation. They have recorded great achievements and carried out President Ho Chi Minh's will to fight and to win as laid down in his July 17, 1966 appeal to the nation. "Hanoi, Haiphong and other cities and interprises may be destroyed but the Vietnamese people will not be intimidated. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom."

In these 30 days, Haiphong brought down 28 planes and Hanoi 26. The U.S. aggressors will pay a dearer price for their new adventurist escalation.

ESCALATION OF U.S. LOSSES FROM THE 1ST TO THE 1900TH PLANE DOWNED

1964	Nghe An	downed the first plane on	Aug. 5
1965	Ha Tinh	100th	Mar. 31
	Quang Binh	200th	Apr. 17
	Nghe An	300th	May 27
	Phu Tho	400th	July 24
	Nghe An	500th	Aug. 29
	Vinh Linh	600th	Sept. 24
	Bach Long Vi	700th	Oct. 26
	Yen Bai	800th	Nov. 27
1966	Nghe An	900th	Mar. 7
	Bac Thai	1000th	Apr. 29
	Nghe An	1100th	June 6
	Hung Yen	1200th	July 14
	Ha Bac	1300th	Aug. 7
	Lang Son	1400th	Sept. 9
	Nghe An	1500th	Oct. 14
	Hanoi	1600th	Dec. 14
1967	Thanh Hoa	1700th	Mar. 1
	Haiphong	1800th	Apr. 25
	Nghe An	1900th	May 17

Latest news

On May 19, 1967 in Hanoi 10 U.S. PLANES DOWNED MANY AIRMEN CAPTURED

On May 19, 1967 U.S. aircraft attacked many localities in and around Hanoi, including the quarter of embassies, damaging the embassy of the D.R. of Korea and of the S.R. of Rumania.

In the seething emulation movement to celebrate President HO CHI MINH's birthday, the Hanoi people and army shot down 10 planes (some of them crashed in downtown Hanoi) and captured a number of American airmen.

Thus up to May 19, 1967, 84 U.S. planes were downed over Hanoi and 1,923 downed in North Vietnam.

Douglas Rent Hegdahl born Sept. 3, 1946 in Dakota, P.N.H. 526,331 sailor on Grusar Canberra captured in Nghe An beginning April 1967.

Identity card of Norman C. Gaddis, USAF colonel piloting an F-4C downed on May 12, 1967.



A U.S. plane downed by a surface-to-air missile

GOOD PRODUCTION AND FIGHTING RECORD

KEEP THE WINDLASS GOING

FIFTEEN workers were hauling a post for high-voltage transmission line over the river at a 70° gradient. All the cable wires went to lift the post were taut to breaking point. Suddenly U.S. planes swooped over the area. The emergency caught the workers who were manning the windlass unaware. They hardly had time to do something about it as bombs hissed overhead. If they lay on the ground the steel pole weighing a dozen tons would fall down. There were several bomb blasts 50 or 300 metres away. But the workers unflinched and kept the windlass going. The pole was soon pulled into position, while four enemy planes were still roaring furiously overhead.

Thirty tense minutes passed. When strongly opposed by a heavy ground fire the

enemy planes broke off their raids, the pole was already on its platform.

PLACE COMMON INTERESTS ABOVE ALL

ONE afternoon, 30 railwaymen were at work on the Hanoi-Thai Nguyen line when U.S. planes flew in and strafed their living quarters nearby: a fire broke out. They quickly jumped out of their shelters and ran towards their houses hoping to save some property. On their way, they saw a section of railway damaged by enemy bombs. Without hesitation, they set to mend the road and fill the bomb craters. Such a job used to take them a whole day. But this time, they finished it in only three hours, just in time for the first train of the day to steam past.

U.S. PILOT CAPTURED BY 13-YEAR-OLD BOY

NGUYEN Van Hoa, a pupil of 13, was back from the fields with the ox he had to mind when he caught sight of an American plane crashing in flames. A red parachute was ejected from it and driven by the wind in the direction of X. village, Quoc Dai district, Ha Tay province. The air pirate landed in a paddy field and hid himself in the midst of the luxuriant rice plants. Hoa did not lose sight of the enemy and dashed towards him. He raised a bamboo shoulder pole and this struck fear into the heart to the downed pilot. Just at this moment, militia men and women arrived. The air pirate could do nothing else than putting his hand up.

HERE AND THERE in the DRV

THE 1967 track-and-field games for mountainous areas held recently by the D.R.V. Physical Training and Sports Commission to boost the athletic movement in these regions for the improvement of the health of the local youth and other people. 150 sportsmen from different minority groups were participating. Apart from special events for the uplands, a long distance run event was organized for sportsmen from both upland and delta regions.

HUNG Yen province has decided to open two university courses on agricultural science and technique on a part-work-part-study basis, to help raise the managerial and technical standards of key provincial and district cadres and middle-level technical workers. Earlier, Ha Tay province ran its own university course on agriculture, the first of its kind in the province, covering cultivation and animal husbandry.

THE THAI AUTHORITIES MUST GIVE UP THEIR CRIMINAL POLICY OF INTENSIFYING TERROR AGAINST VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS

THE Vietnamese people are deeply indignant at the recent news released by the Thai government from Thailand, South-orthern, under Secretary of the Thai Ministry of Interior, stated on May 7, that "all Vietnamese residents of 12 years onwards must report to the local district offices to be photographed and have their fingerprints printed." On May 8, Thai Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn declared that the Thai government was considering a plan to evacuate the Vietnamese residents living in the northeast provinces of Thailand to other places and "would like to deport them". Other sources revealed that the Thai authorities planned to send the Vietnamese residents to Tarat island, off the west coast of Thailand in the Indian Ocean. The Thai Foreign Minister on May 8 also disclosed that the Thai government would discuss this matter with the Saigon puppet administration.

The policy of persecution against the Vietnamese residents in Thailand has been systematically carried out and intensified for the last two years.

The reactionary Thai authorities not only ban the Vietnamese residents from district to district and from province to province even on the occasion of wedding or funeral, but they also carry out house search and arrest and kill many Vietnamese residents.

In September 1966, periodical, the Thai authorities took no measures to help the Vietnamese victims; they even shamelessly prevented them from removing their houses to safer places.

In February 1967, the Thai

government launched a campaign to persecute Vietnamese residents in almost all the northeastern provinces of Thailand such as Nongkhai, Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, Udon, and Udon Thani.

It is to remember that in 1965, the Thai government planned to move the Vietnamese residents to South Vietnam to serve as cannon fodder for the U.S. imperialists and their allies. It now joins hands with the Saigon puppet administration to persecute and expel the Vietnamese residents.

The above-mentioned acts prove that the Thai reactionaries have intensified their policy of persecution and repression against the Vietnamese residents to an extremely serious degree.

The persecution of Vietnamese residents is illegal, inhuman and criminal. It is crystal clear that even the Thai reactionaries have many a time acknowledged the truth that the Vietnamese residents have been honest people who constantly respect the law and customs of Thailand and contribute a notable part to the economic development of the country and the peaceful life of the Vietnamese residents.

The Thai authorities have blatantly ridden roughshod over international law and the principles of the agreement signed in Bangkok on Sept. 8, 1965 between the Thai and Vietnamese governments to guarantee the security of the Vietnamese residents in Thailand. Thai authorities have held responsible for all consequences arising from the policy of repression and terror against the Vietnamese residents.

The policy of terrorizing the Vietnamese resi-

dents is itself obviously a verdict denouncing the unpopular character of the Thai government. Working in glove with the Saigon authorities in this shameful affair, the Thai reactionaries show all the more clearly that they are the pliant lackeys of the Yankee. Thanom Kittikachorn has no other alternative than to relax the old time that the Vietnamese residents are carrying out "subversive plots". This argument cannot cover up his crime and that of his ruling clique against the Vietnamese residents and cannot hide the truth that this intensified terror is dovetailed with the U.S. military B-52 bombers to land in Thailand, the eventual defeat of the Vietnamese residents to South Vietnam, etc.

The Thai authorities are acting like the worst tyrants of the U.S. in its aggressive war in Vietnam. In this regard, it is crystal clear that even the Thai reactionaries have many a time acknowledged the truth that the Vietnamese residents have been honest people who constantly respect the law and customs of Thailand and contribute a notable part to the economic development of the country and the peaceful life of the Vietnamese residents.

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The policy of terrorizing the Vietnamese resi-

THIEU AND K...

(Continued from page 8)

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Commenting on Ky's hasty election campaign, the *New York Times* on May 11 pointed out that if Ky made a long delay, his ruling circles would have to give up those who are supporting Ky.

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AMERICAN PEOPLE'S PROTEST MOVEMENT AGAINST THE U.S. AGGRESSIVE WAR IN VIETNAM IS MOUNTING

SINCE April 15, 1967 when the U.S. authorities in New York and San Francisco went down to the streets in huge demonstrations to condemn the crimes perpetrated by the Johnson regime in Vietnam, the American people's movement against the aggressive war in Vietnam has continued to surge up ever more powerfully. The debate on the Vietnam affair by Thai students of the Chicago and Harvard colleges, the petition sent to Johnson by 300 professors of the Columbia University in New York condemning the U.S. aggressive policy in Vietnam, the statement of May 10, 1967 of 233 students of 25 biggest medical colleges in the United States categorically refusing to enroll in the army at protest against the government's policy, the 720-km march of American youth from Princeton to Washington, D.C., to oppose the government's policy, etc., are most concrete evidence of the anti-war movement in the United States.

This highly angered the U.S. aggressors. To prevent

political and moral grounds. His first session has made an attempt to mobilize world public opinion and awakening human conscience against U.S. imperialism the most dangerous enemy of mankind.

For his part, Thieu has been strongly opposed to Ky. Answering questions in the paper *Tien Ngay*, he declared that the "firmly protested against anybody who tried to use the armed force to support himself", and reiterated that he "was still inclined to run for the Presidency".

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This movement from exerting its influence on the anti-war rallies on May 13, 1967 organized in New York a "demonstration" allegedly to "support U.S. fighting men in Vietnam".

Most of the participants were students of the University of California, Berkeley, who mobilized many who had committed themselves to the cause of peace and many members of the notorious "John Birch" fascist society. To encourage this "demonstration", Spellman, a bloodthirsty war-monger cloaked as cardinal of New York, who had once called on the U.S. troops in Vietnam to kill more civilians including women and children, also attended. Former U.S. President Eisenhower, from his sick bed, and former U.S. Vice-President Nixon, another war-monger, also issued "endorsements" to the demonstrators.

However, the U.S. ruling circles did not expect the results they had expected. *AFP* remarked on May 13 that the "great pacifist march on April 15".

The peace-loving people in the United States, siding with the peace militants and preparing a "Summer campaign of struggle against the war in Vietnam". The American people have taken a giant and greater initiative and offensive in their activities against the Vietnam war.

Their movement was developing in varied and lively forms.

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U.S. troops bogged down in the quagmire of Quang Tri Thua Thien

(Continued from page 8)

PUPPET TROOPS BADLY MAULED IN THE PLAINS

WHILE the G.I.'s have been dealt blows in the outer belts close to the demilitarized zone, the puppet troops in the plains have not been able to fulfil their "house mother" task and do their "pacification" work.

At An Lo (September 9, 1966), 300 puppet troops wiped out the first attack of the L.A.F. (January 4, 1967) on the Quang Tri military sector resulted in 300 puppet troops killed, the second (March 7, 1967) in 2 puppet companies wiped out and 100 men captured. With the A.F. attack on the Nam Gio rifle-range on February 6, 1967, the enemy lost 100 men and 50 armoured cars. The C. P. of the Phu Thua military sector annihilated on March 11, 1967. The Long Tho training camp was attacked by surprise on April 5.

These facts proved that the enemy defence line in the plains of Quang Tri and Thua Thien had been broken through. The L.A.F. attacks on the strongpoints of the enemy in La Vang and on Quang Tri city which was controlled by the L.A.F. for four months since the night of April 5, particularly the U.S. intention of turning the plains and the rear base had gone bankrupt.

The defence of Highway No. 1, a key line of communication, had proved ineffective. In 10 days alone, local guerrillas destroyed bridges, burning big ones like the room long bridge at An Lo. A series of bridges from Huu to Da Nang, and two bridges on the Thach Ha river were blown up. Highway No. 1 had plenty of triggered mines and guerrilla ambushes.

On the other hand, the pacification plan has also been shattered by guerrilla forces. Since December 1, 1966, 100 enemy cadres were wiped out during an attack on the "pacification cadres" training

ground the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists.

THOUGH sustaining heavy military defeats, the U.S. imperialists still have not given up their brigadoccio. On the one hand they concede they cannot win but on the other claim that they cannot lose. It remains to be seen whether in the end the U.S. imperialists will be defeated by our people militarily.

The military successes of people's war in South Vietnam and abroad have convinced the U.S. imperialists that they have suffered a severe and self-inflicted wound. They have a hard and a bitter lesson to learn with complete failure. This is a reality of the situation which serves to demonstrate a truth of our times, in the conditions of the present struggle, that a small nation once having risen up with determination and closely united, learning no sacrifice and fol-

camp on the road from Hue to Phu Bai. In March 1967, a "pacification" unit of 100 persons were wiped out in the Hue area. Such casualties have crushed the enemy plan aimed at herding the population and restoring the network of "strategic hamlets". Let us mention again the An Lo battle (December 9, 1966) which spurred the "pacification" plan in the bud.

U.S. AND PUPPET TROOPS EVER MORE BOGGED DOWN

Stamp out the mounting revolutionary war in Quang Tri and Thua Thien. The U.S. command sent 6 battalions of U.S. Marines and 4 battalions of regular puppet troops to Highway No. 9, then from Da Nang, South Korea to Quang Tri, South Vietnam.

The situation is not stable. The Americans now, as the French before, hope to suppress the revolutionary movement by extending their network in the mountains. But it has resulted in their forces being scattered and that of scattering troops for occupying land and controlling the population.

In April 1967, Westmoreland sent Light Infantry Brigade 196, a unit from Air Mobile Cavalry Division 1, to Da Nang, and two brigades of U.S. Marines in Quang Tri.

South and Thua Thien. But the present development in this theatre requires new relief troops.

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lowing a correct political and military line, know how to carry out their war and to gain the broad universal support, is fully in a position to defeat militarily the aggressor of the era, U.S. imperialism, which boasts the biggest economic and military strength in the capitalist world.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is a great need for improvement in the working of our paper. We apologise for the shortcomings and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will definitely serve to improve our paper more efficiently in future.

Escalation of Crimes

(Continued from page 12)

31, 1966, U.S. planes bombed and strafed 30 schools in North Vietnam, including the Normal College in Vinh, killing 38 students and 20 pupils and 43 teachers, and wounding 47 students and pupils and 62 teachers.

During the U.S. new war escalation in Hanoi U.S. planes attacked schools, colleges and vocational schools.

The crime escalation of Washington continued to be a challenge to all people in the world.

L.A.F.

REPEATED OFFENSIVES

REPEATED L.A.F. ASSAULTS ON ENEMY BASES AND AIRFIELDS. U.S. SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES IN DA NANG DESTROYED

ON May 14, the L.A.F. attacked the surface-to-air missile Battalion 1 defending the U.S. air base in Da Nang. According to Western reports, the L.A.F. damaged its system of projectors and destroyed one launching site after another, while setting afire the missile carrying trucks and an oil depot. The enemy admitted 12 surface-to-air missiles and 30 launching sites destroyed, and an oil depot set afire.

BIEN HOA AIRFIELD AND PHUOC VINH BASE VIOLENTLY ATTACKED

ON the night of May 12, the L.A.F. hammered at Bien Hoa town (the 6th time since Oct. 31, 1964) and Phuoc Vinh base. Though Bien Hoa was heavily defended after five attacks, the L.A.F. ran across the enemy defence line and poured thousands of shells on the C.P. of Para Brigade 173, the aircraft parking ground, stores and barracks, set them afire, thus bringing the airbase to a standstill.

On the same night, the L.A.F. attacked Phuoc Vinh base of Brigade 1, Infantry

● **U.S. Surface-to-Air Missile System at Da Nang Wiped Out: 12 Missiles and 36 Launching Sites Destroyed and a Fuel Depot Set Afire (as Admitted by the Enemy) (May 14).**

● **Bien Hoa Airfield and Phuoc Vinh Base attacked: 70 Aircraft Destroyed and 500 G.I.s' Wiped Out (May 11).**

● **U.S. Marine Base at Chu Lai and Qui Nhon Airfield stormed (Night of May 11).**

● **Operation Manhattan smashed in East Nam Bo: 1,000 Enemies Annihilated, and 50 Tanks and Armoured Carriers Destroyed.**

Division 1, 32km north of Bien Hoa town.

The following night, this base received another blow from the L.A.F.

According to the initial reports from G.P.X. (Liberation Press Agency) 50 aircraft were destroyed, 50 Yankees killed or wounded including many airmen and technicians.

U.S. MARINE BASE AT CHU LAI POUNDED

ACCORDING to Western reports, in the night of May 11, the L.A.F. shelled

the U.S. marine base at Chu Lai. 18 motor shells hit the G.I.'s barracks and more than 20 others fell on their landing craft, the enemy admitted. Two L.S.T.s were damaged and many Americans killed and wounded.

QUI NHON AIRFIELD STORMED

ON the night of May 9, the L.A.F. assaulted Qui Nhon airfield, Binh Dinh province.

According to first enemy reports one oil depot was set afire, many aircraft destroyed and scores of American and puppet troops killed and wounded.

OPERATION MANHATTAN SMASHED

AFTER their heavy setback in Operation Junction City the Americans tried to retrieve their losses by launching Operation Manhattan at the end of April 1967. They mustered 20,000 men against the area of Cu Chi, South of Trang Bang, Ben Cat and South of Dau Tieng in Gia Dinh, Tay Nhat Mot and Tay Ninh. The smaller number of troops involved and the choice of a target nearer to Saigon betrays the enemy's difficulties and caution. This caution was all the more obvious as his troops were divided into many columns, each of them into many groups, advancing slowly, often changing their for-

mations for fear of being attacked by surprise, and setting up defence positions wherever they camped...

This, however, did not prevent them from being repeatedly assaulted by the L.A.F. who knew the terrain and clung to their opponent. As a result, all their four columns were badly mauled.

According to GPX (Liberation Press Agency) initial report, from the end of March to the beginning of May 1967, the L.A.F. wiped out more than 1,000 U.S. and puppet troops, destroyed and damaged 50 tanks and armoured cars.

MORE ENEMY TROOPS PUT OUT OF ACTION IN QUANG TRI

AFTER their great successes on 12th May 84, the L.A.F. intercepted a U.S. marine company of Regiment 3 at token northwest of Khe Sanh. Although the G.I.'s had an artillery barrage and fired wantonly while advancing most cautiously, they fell into an ambush prepared by the L.A.F.

Right in the first minutes of the engagement the enemy C.P. and signal service were crushed, and his troops fled helter-skelter. After an hour of fighting the L.A.F. annihilated the U.S. marine company and captured all its arms.

U.S. TROOPS BOGGED DOWN IN THE QUAGMIRE OF

QUANG TRI, THUA THIEN

IN its 1966-1967 dry-season "strategic counter-offensive" the U.S. command planned to set up in the Quang Tri-Thua Thien theatre, a defence line made up of groups of strongpoints along Highway No. 9, from Dong Ha to the Vietnamese-Lao border with a view to isolating the South Vietnamese revolution, checking big offensives progressively repelling the L.A.F. It strengthened the defence of Highway No. 1, main road of supply for the U.S. marines to the North of Highway No. 9. It launched numerous "sweeps" in the plains of Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, hoping to drive out the L.E.F. and establish a safe rear-base.

HIGHWAY No. 9, A CEMETERY FOR U.S. MARINES

COMBINING small, middle and large-scale battles the L.A.F. cut to pieces the U.S. defence line along Highway No. 9 and in the Gio Linh, Con Thien and Dong Ha area north of it. In the last three months of 1966, whole platoons and companies of U.S. marines were annihilated in battles north and south of

Highway No. 9. At the beginning of 1967, in addition to the March 20 and 21 retaliation bombardment of U.S. artillery emplacements by the D.R.V. artillery north of the 17th parallel, the Americans suffered thundering blows from the L.A.F. On March 6, the L.A.F. shelled 1,500 G.I.s on Hill 241. On April 27, they struck at the C.P. U.S. Division 3, regimental C.P.s of the U.S. marines, and the C.P.'s of puppet Division and Regiment 2 at Dong Ha, wiping out over 400 men, most of them were officers, destroying 71 planes and all their artillery positions. In March 1967 alone, they annihilated over 4,300 enemy troops on Highway No. 9. From April 24 to May 7 they wiped out 2,800 men (2,100 G.I.s). Operations in the Khe Sanh area waged since the beginning of May have shown the passivity of American troops who have been beaten whether they have remained in their strongpoints or gone out to patrol, break through encirclements or link their positions with one another.

(Continued page 7)

* 700 G.I.s killed.



Bien Hoa airbase after the L.A.F. attack on May 11, 1967.

THIEU AND KY TAKE UP THE GAUNTLET

OF late, the White House often bragged, that "parliamentary" and "presidential" elections would be held and that "a civilian government" would come into existence in Saigon. On this basis, it would stabilize the puppet administration, rally its stragglers and put a legal look on the puppet regime. This, it claimed, would be a political victory. The U.S. trick, however, can fool nobody. Instead, it is setting its lackeys' loggish hands with one another, in a more acute manner than ever before, especially in the battle for the presidency next September.

The U.S. hope to rig up a puppet civilian administration under such "civilian states-

men" as Phan Khac Suu, Phan Quang Dan and Nguyen Khanh. But now looks very thin. With Westmoreland's backing, Nguyen Cao Ky threatened words. Speaking at Lai Chau recently, he bluntly declared, "Had any civilian figure won the elections, I would oppose him militarily".

It is not surprising that being given the intensification of the war of aggression in Vietnam, Johnson will give support to the military. How can those who style themselves as civilians win the elections? It goes without saying that the scramble for power among them has not ended. Bunker, the new American ambassador in Saigon, is trying

his best to play his role as "trouble-shooter".

President Johnson is having a headache dealing with his placemen, but the test of strength between Thieu and Ky—the two most pliant servants of the U.S.—will give him a still bigger headache. Ky has all along dreamt of the presidential chair. In his eye, Thieu is his opponent. Hitherto, the power dispute between them has been smothered up behind the scenes. Upon returning from the Guam Conference, Ky boasted that Thieu and he himself are of the same boat, and that he was prepared to support Thieu's nomination. UPI on May 11,

(Continued page 6)